

The Opinions Page

POLICY

The Opinions Page is a forum for any member of the Mars Hill community to express their ideas, problems or thoughts. The Hilltop does not discriminate against anyone who wishes to submit a letter. All letters must be signed, but the editor can withhold the name if requested. Send all letters to THE HILLTOP, PO BOX 6148, MARS HILL, NC 28754. The views presented on this page are not necessarily those of the Hilltop or of Mars Hill College.

Babble On Questioning Morality

by MIKE WACHTENDORF
staff columnist

Tell me something. Since when is morality a controllable lifestyle? Lately, I've noticed that the term "morality" is being used in a fairly odd way around school, around home, in the church, and the rest of the world for that matter. Is morality a self-imposed lifestyle? Is it something you learn from the things that you read or the music you listen to? Is it inheritable? Can it be forced upon someone? No. I think not.

Maybe morality is composed of all the good things we do (or don't do). Often we describe those who appear to do pleasant or helpful acts as being good, moral people. Those who don't share in the "do-gooder" mentality are often shunned or seen as immoral. Our country has numerous laws which encourage and promote "morality," our school has rules founded in "morality," our parents tried to teach us what is and what is not moral behavior.

Let me be the first to tell you that these definitions of morality are slightly off the bullseye. The problem with these definitions is that they do not take into consideration the other important aspect of morality.

Perhaps you've heard it said that someone has done something out of the goodness of his heart.

Obviously, morality originates in the heart. It is not just the things you do or don't do. You must consider your motives for doing them.

I am often annoyed, as I'm sure you are too, when I hear a loud mouth who gets his jollies by judging the "level of morality" of someone else. This happens all the time. Think about it.

When you take into consideration that morality includes actions and motives, you can readily understand that the only person who can judge an individual's "level of morality" is that individual. I, alone, know my motives for doing things. If you really wanted to judge my morality, you could at least ask me what my motives are, and you still might judge me wrong. So why bother?

Society has rules set up to outlaw certain behaviors which violate the standards of "morality." The language we use, the drinks we consume, the things we do with our girlfriends or boyfriends and the way we live our lives are all regulated in the game of morality.

On the school level some of these morality rules are constantly the topic of conversation. The visitation policy seems much more restrictive than protective. Some students see the alcohol policy the same way. Personally, I'm tired of being restricted by someone else's moral code. What is the administration's motive for having these policies? Maybe they are there for the sake of our parents or maybe the administration really cares. If so, someone should show me. How can they? I don't know, I just wish they would.

The many rules which try to establish a universal sense of morality fall short. Rules may control my behavior, but my motives and thoughts are mine and mine alone. The rules which are created for the sake of morality are resented by many students. Restrictive rules are not worth the paper they're written on unless they also provide protection for individuals. We cannot expect rules to penetrate hearts.

Restrict my behavior if you must, but leave my morality to me. It is mine. I am free.

Spider's Webb To Sum it Up

by AMY WEBB
staff columnist

What a year! It's hard to believe that it is almost over. A lot has happened. With just a precious few weeks left, many thoughts run through my mind. Friends' faces flash by and I wonder if it is going to be the same next semester. Will there be midnight runs to Denny's? Will there be late evening walks around the loop? How will we manage without a drive on the parkway? Seniors will be graduating. Others will be transferring. New freshmen will come in the fall. Soon we will be occupied with summer jobs and moving back home. When we come back things will be different. The campus will look different and so will the people. It'll all change. Some say change is good, but sometimes I just wish things would stay the same just for a little while. I guess that's what memories are for.

Time Out THE GREAT COMMISSION

by CRYSTAL GRZELLA
staff columnist & SENIOR!

If we look into Matthew 28, we will find on the first day of the week after the Sabbath there was a great earthquake and the Angel of the Lord descended from heaven and rolled back the stone from the tomb where Jesus was lain. When Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb, the angel said, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. HE IS NOT HERE; HE HAS RISEN, JUST AS HE SAID." Then Jesus appeared to Mary and told her not to weep over an empty tomb. He further instructed her to tell the disciples they will see him in Galilee.

When the disciples saw Jesus on the mountain, Jesus decreed His Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age".

The rising of Jesus symbolizes the newness that is brought out in us when we are cleansed of our

sins. It is a significant reminder that Christ died for our sins and rose again to say that we too can rise above all of the afflictions of the world into heaven. Remember in Luke that Jesus said "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." The Great Commission is our duty as servants of God, to proclaim to all the world the teaching of Jesus. Missionaries all around the world are carrying out the Great Commission for Christ. Be a part of this missionary outreach by becoming familiar with missionary work in your church or even the Chaplain of Mars Hill College. Prayer for the missionaries and supplies are needed.



CHAOS by Brian Shuster



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